

**THE AMERICAN LEGION
5th District, Department of Illinois
C/O
Robert E. Coulter Jr. Post No. 1941
900 South LaGrange
LaGrange, Illinois 60525-2936
(708) 354-3300**

July 21, 2004

Dear Members of the FCC:

Re Opposition to Proposed Rate Change for Phone Cards

As you know, our service men and women routinely use the prepaid calling cards to stay connected with family, friends and loved ones while stationed across the country or abroad. I am notifying you that I object to the Federal Communications Commission consideration of a ruling that would significantly increase the costs that apply to enhanced prepaid calling cards, resulting in sharp price increases for the tens of millions of consumers who use them - a large portion of which are military personnel.

Research shows that 95% of military personnel use prepaid cards. Today, these cards provide extremely low calling rates to consumers. If you subject these calls to new access charges, the price that consumers pay for these calls would increase by nearly 20%. This increase will adversely affect the cost for military personnel using these cards, and will impact pricing for Operation Enduring Freedom/Iraqi Freedom.

In conclusion, I strongly urge the FCC to reject any new rate increases to enhanced prepaid calling cards.

Sincerely,

James M. O'Rourke, Sr.
Senior Vice Commander